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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONS COVERSHEET

DATE: Sept. 27, 2004

ATTENTION: Examiner D. Isabella

COMPANY: Art Unit 3738

FACSIMILE NO.: 703-872-9306

FROM: Brian S. Tomko

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NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 17

COMMENTS: Re: USSN 10/099,690
Our Ref.: HRT0293

Contents:

Petition for Extension of Time:
Amendment:

1 sheet
15 sheets

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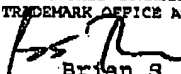
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Docket No. HRT-0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.
Serial No. : 10/099,690 Art Unit : 3738
Filed : March 15, 2002 Examiner : D. Isabella
Title : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FAXED TO THE
UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE AT (703)872-9306 ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2004


Brian S. Tomko
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 26, 2004, the time to respond having been extended by petition, please consider the following:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this document.